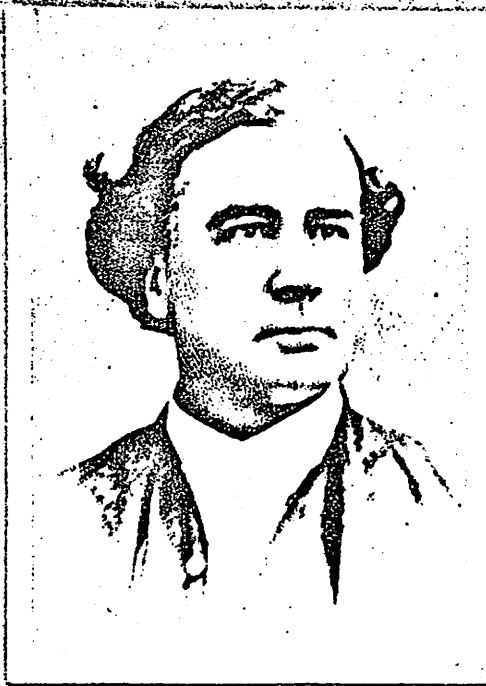


Happy Hut *Box 217*  
Saluda, N.C. 23773  
July 26th, 1967



THE REV. DR. JAMES STONEY  
1821 - 1870

Dear Cousins All:

How would you like to share the honor of commemorating a small part of the life of this ancestor of ours?

At the new St. Luke's Church, Hilton Head, we will place a brass EWER at the Baptismal Font, with inscription, commemorating the time when the Reverend Doctor James Stoney, M.D. of Bluffton, and owner of "Trimblestone" plantation and its 140 slaves, held the little Episcopal congregation of Zion Chapel on Hilton Head Island together. It was just a few years in mid 1850. Zion disappeared about 1868, and no church was for Episcopalians till the present congregation built St. Luke's on a new site.

How would you like to go down and share the presentation of the Ewer to the Rev. Thorne Sparkman and Mr. Postell of St. Luke's this fall - forever marking a brief moment of history in the story of the church on Hilton Head?

The cost of the Ewer is only \$108.00. It was made in England. It is here on my desk and is very lovely. Perhaps it would be more appropriate if many of us contributed small amounts than if one or two paid the whole bill. Burnet Stoney of Morganton wrote the check for it when it arrived.

*19 Nov*  
BRIEF STORY OF  
REV. DR. STONEY'S  
LIFE

In 1821 James Stoney was born to Dr. George Mosse Stoney and his beloved wife Catherine Jenkins, who, a brief ten days later passed into her eternal life. James was named for Dr. George's father James of Hilton Head, owner of Fairfield plantation, who in turn was the son of "Captain Jack" Stoney, colorful originator of South Carolina Stoneys. He had come over from Ireland prior to the Revolution. Captain Jack owned Otter Hole plantation and is credited in Dalcho's history with building Zion Chapel with Mr. Fripp. He bought other lands on Hilton Head. More about Captain Jack later.

When James grew into his 'teens he decided to follow his father in Medicine and took an M.D. degree at the South Carolina Medical College, Charleston. He married Mary Reed who was a scanty 16 years old lass of Beauford, the daughter of Dr. Samuel Reed, James himself not yet 21 years old.

Great Grandfather (Dr. George Mosse Stoney) bought some land on the mainland opposite Hilton Head Island, near where the bridge has recently been built, and gave it to the young couple. The house he built for them is gone, but the rubble pile which was the lower

story is there to mark the spot where it stood amid pomegranates and myrtles and live oaks. It was built with masonry lower floor and wooden upper structure, a traditional country home of that day. Some of the Bluffton people of a generation ago said they remembered what it looked like. The Medical office still stands. I hope we can have a picnic on the site.

Some of the children of James and Mary were born At Trimblestone. And let me digress in this paragraph to remark on the name Trimblestone. At a later date James M. Stoney, the Bishop of New Mexico, when he was rector of Grace Church, Anniston, Alabama, named his home in Alexandria valley Trimblestone, and as of this date the living Rev. James M. Stoney has named his place in Saluda, North Carolina Trimblestone. The origin of the name seems to have been in north Ireland where the Stoneys rested a generation on their way from Kettlewell, West Riding, Yorkshire, England (the home of the Stoneys) to a haven on Hilton Head in South Carolina. This took place in the 1700s, as Captain Jack Stoney is definitely enrolled in the South Carolina Militia of St. Luke's Parish in 1775. He must have told his children and grand children of the Irish Trimblestone in nostalgic hours of tales of the long ago.

In addition to his work as community doctor and plantation owner James was Lay Reader at the church. In 1849 he packed up his family and went to Alexandria, Virginia to study for the Ministry. He was ordained in 1852, served awhile as Deacon, and was advanced to the Priesthood, and took over the Bluffton congregation the next year. He served as church builder and rector till 1861.

1861 As that fateful year of all years dawned the Rev. Dr. James Stoney, M.D. had been ministering nine years to the physical needs and spiritual yearnings of his neighbors, and with the aid of Mr. John James Cole, was operating the extensive plantation. It would seem that he had reached at the age of forty the ultimate of man's desires. He could look back on the nine years of activity in the church, the ministry of service in his medical work, and the time he had taken to go to Hilton Head to hold the services at Zion Chapel with the joy of an Old Testament patriarch, his wife and children about his table, and his servants loved and cared for.

ALAS, he was to walk down nine more years of trouble, sorrow, grief and eventually failure.

The Diocesan Journal of 1861 places the Rev. Dr. James Stoney, M.D. at York, South Carolina as the guns of the Civil War roared over the May River at Bluffton. From York he enlisted as Chaplain for South Carolina troops for a period. The next year Mary, his beloved wife died. She lies in an unmarked grave, though a handsome memorial Altar was later placed there by his daughter Mary, whom we knew as "Aunt Mamie Brevard". James married Amanda Springs while still in York and remained there till the war was over and troops had gone from Trimblestone.

parish left completely poverty-stricken by four years of war spelt out the disaster. Grandfather's losses were staggering. For a word picture of what they were up against read Willie Lee Rose's book "Prelude for Reconstruction". She sounds as if she were sitting on the front steps of lovely Trimblestone, writing an elegy.

The church just folded up. The plantation just fell apart. Brother Joseph Stoney staid on to try to salvage what was left. The Bishop of Georgia asked Rev. Dr. Stoney to move to Savannah to take charge of a Negro parish, St. Stephens, some of whom are thought to have been the Trimblestone slaves. He took up his ministry there in 1868. Two years later the stage upon which this man of God had been Doctor, Minister, Farmer and lover of people, white and black, was closed. The record simply says he died of "the Typhoid disease" and was buried in Laurel Cemetery, in Lot 1152 which belonged to the family of Richardsons. Nearby are graves of children of the second marriage. Though he was only 49 years old the words on his stone are from St. Paul's letter to Timothy, the second Epistle, chapter 4, verse 7 "I have fought a good fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith".

A PARAGRAPH ABOUT JOHN JAMES COLE 1809-1867 John James Cole was to contribute a lovely daughter to the Stoney clan. At the close of the War, and before his death, his daughter Alice Camilla married James Stoney of Trimblestone. Born to them were John Cole Stoney, Mary Reid Stoney, Willie Woodbridge Stoney and John Beckwith Stoney. Two died in childhood. Mrs. Sara Cole Shultz told me in 1966 that after Trimblestone fell apart all the Coles moved to Texas. She said that Mrs. John James Cole, mother of Alice Camilla, was Esther Carolina Corley, born March 8, 1823 and died in Morgan, Texas September 28th, 1886. Contacts were lost for years.

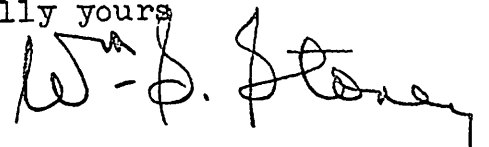
PERPETUAL CARE FOR THE LAUREL GROVE LOT On my desk I have an application blank addressed to the city of Savannah. It is for perpetual care for the grave of Rev. Dr. James Stoney, M.D., and states that a fee of \$500.00 must accompany the application. If we care to do this we can decide upon it when we meet at Hilton Head when we present the EWER this fall. Or better still, we can assume that this is a family "must" and you can make your contribution with your contribution to the Ewer when you reply. I will deposit the money in the account in Northwestern Bank, Hendersonville, N.C. which is devoted to this project. I will hold it there till we reach a decision.

DESCENDANTS Half a dozen more sheets belong to this letter. They give the descendants of Rev. Dr. James Stoney M.D. and a lot of interesting facts about them. If you are anxious to have these records I will be delighted to send them to you. Much of it you probably already know. They are to be in mimeographed form like this letter.

I can give you the date of the assembling at Hilton Head as soon as Dr. Thorne Sparkman, rector of St. Luke's gives us the green light.

Let me hear from you, if you have been able to survive all this.

Faithfully yours



8 Moon Shell Road  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928  
4 July 1984

Dear Miss Warren,

The Secretary to the Rector of St. Luke's Parish has referred your letter to me as President of the Hilton Head Island Historical Society. Although the historic St. Luke's Parish goes back to 1767, the violence of the federal invasion of this area 1861-1865 left nothing much above ground. We have had to reconstruct our history from what was preserved elsewhere. Naturally, the best sources for Church history are Dr. Dalcho's account of the Episcopal Church in South Carolina through 1820 and the continuation thereof by the late Bishop Albert S. Thomas. There are several references therein to the Rev. Dr. James Stoney (1821-1870). Unhappily, there is no reference to him in Malone's History of the Episcopal Church in Georgia.

However, since Dr. Stoney's grandfather, Captain James Stoney (1772-1827) of Otterburn Plantation, Hilton Head Island, married Elizabeth Mosse, a sister of my gr<sup>2</sup>-grandmother, Jane Mosse (Mrs. Benjamin T. D. Lawton of Lawtonville), it happens that I do have in my files a rather extensive account of the family of Dr. Stoney, certainly more than I can imagine you are interested in knowing.

James Stoney was born 19 Nov 1821, 3rd child of Dr. George Mosse Stoney (1795-1854) of Otterburn, Hilton Head Island, and his first wife, Catherine Adams Jenkins who died ten days after his birth. His father married (2) 18 Jan 1823 Sarah Woodward Barnwell who took over the rearing of his three small children. James graduated from the S.C. Medical College 1842, just after marrying 5 Apr 1842 Mary Clara Reed, born Beaufort 4 Jun 1826, daughter of Dr. Samuel Reed. Dr. Stoney was given Trimblestone Plantation just east of present Bluffton as a wedding present by his father; his tiny medical office was still standing a decade ago, sole remnant of his extensive plantation. In 1849 he packed up his family and moved them to Va. Seminary, Alexandria where he received BD and was ordained 18 Apr 1852 by Bishop Meade as deacon, advancing to the priesthood 15 Jul 1853, having served his deaconate in St. Helena's, Beaufort. He returned to Trimblestone and was Rector of Church of the Cross, Bluffton 1853-1861, directing the building of the historic building consecrated 1857. He also ministered to the communicants of Zion Chapel of Ease here on this island. He became Rector of Good Shepherd, Yorkville in April 1861 where his wife died and his sons Reed and James went off to fight for CSA; he served briefly as a Chaplain but had to return to care for his family & his 2nd wife, Amanda Springs. In 1866 he returned to Trimblestone to find everything in ruins, his slaves gone. He accepted the position of Rector of St. Stephen's Ch., Savannah, Ga. 5 Jan 1868 and died there 10 Feb 1870, buried in Laurel Grove Cem., Richardson lot, plot No. 1152. A daughter gave a marble altar in Yorkville in 1923 in his memory and his descendants gave a ewer to St. Luke's Church here in 1973 at the time the Historical Society unveiled a marker at the site of Zion Chapel of Ease. His widow moved to Charlotte, NC with her two children, Julia & Saida, both of whom died there of diphtheria; Amanda married (2) Mr. Gibson who also left her widowed; she is buried in Charlotte beside her two Stoney daughters.

If you will telephone me when next you are on Hilton Head Island, I shall be happy to let you examine my files on the Stoney family, if you so desire. Or, I shall undertake to answer any specific questions you may have. Cousin Jim Stoney has many descendants, of course, quite a few of whom are well-known to me.

With every good wish for you, I have the honor to remain

Faithfully,

Robert E. H. Peeples +

Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples,  
Pres., H. H. Is. Historical Society



Rev. Dr. James Stoney 1821-1890  
To whom this book is dedicated

March 29, 1932